



# **MULTI-MODAL COMMITTEE AVIATION DIVISION REPORT SUBMITTED BY: BOBBY WALSTON**

## **BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION APRIL 4, 2018**

### **PROJECTS** (Provide status/update for top 3-5 projects in respective mode)

- Aviation Funding – Related work is continuing in preparation for the Division's April 2018 report to the Transportation Appropriation Chairs of the NCGA and the Fiscal Research Division on Commercial Service Airport funding.
- Our Lean Six Sigma project for improvement to our grant process is ongoing and we are completing the analysis phase of this effort. Next, we will develop improvements to the process and measure those impacts. The LSS effort has already led to improvements in the documentation and automation of our workflow and the creation of training videos as well and has helped the training of our new Grants Administrator.
- Criteria are being finalized for prioritizing General Aviation Airport economic development project funding. We anticipate recommendations for economic development projects going before the BOT as early as May.
- The King Air 200 passenger aircraft will undergo a routine annual Phase Check beginning in late April and will take approximately 3-4 weeks. The work will be performed in Winston Salem, NC. Additionally, the aircraft will receive a FAA required Automatic Dependent Surveillance Broadcast (ADS-B) upgrade for enhanced air traffic management.
- The King Air C90, primarily used for photogrammetry missions, will undergo an engine hot section inspection in early May. This inspection is performed halfway through the life of the engines and is based on accrued hours.
- Chief Aircraft Mechanic Tim Luckwaldt retired on February 28<sup>th</sup>, after 30 years of honorable service.
- Executive Pilot Corbi Bulluck with retire on April 1<sup>st</sup> after 28 years of honorable State Service.
- The annual State Aviation Art Contest closed out and nine winners were chosen, three from each age group. The nine winners have now been advanced to compete in the national contest in Washington, DC.
- The UAS Program Office issued over 308 NC UAS Operator Permits in January and February putting the total permits issued to date at 2,903.
- The UAS Program Office will host their next workshop in Nags Head on April 19<sup>th</sup> at the Comfort Inn conference room.
- The UAS Program Office has been asked by FEMA to help lead a statewide UAS Workgroup to help prepare emergency responders using UAS. The goal of the NC UAS Workgroup is to help establish a collaborative environment where local, state, federal, and private sector UAS partners can share best practices, participate in state and regional UAS exercises, and establish working relationships during "blue skies" that can be leveraged during times of disaster. The kickoff meeting is planned for April 20<sup>th</sup>.

### **BUDGET UPDATES** (Provide budget reporting pertinent to respective mode)

- We have obligated nearly 100% of our SFY 18 State Aid to Airports funds and are requesting to cashflow SFY 19 State Aid funds at this month's BOT meeting.
- Current construction bids are coming in very high. A couple of areas where bids have been particularly high have been mobilization and electrical items.



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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Share updates on announcements/upcoming events in respective mode)

### NEW

- Staffing Changes: We have filled the Grants Administrator position and hope to have the recommendation submitted for the Finance Manager by 3/23/18. We are interviewing for our vacant Senior Airport Project Manager position.
- Our Executive Pilot position posted on 3/19 and closed on 3/30.
- The UAS Program Office partnered with the NC Dept. of Labor and provided a one day UAS Part 107 training class on Feb 13th for both NCDOT, NCDOL, NCSBI, and NCSHP personnel.
- The UAS Program Office has trained and loaned a UAS/drone to Division 1 personnel to help with the response to NC12 from recent winter storms.

### UPCOMING

- April 2-4 - FAA Southern Region Conference in Atlanta, GA.
- April 13 & 16 - Division wide Legacy Leadership Training event.
- April 19 - Drone Workshop, Nags Head
- April 20 - FEMA UAS Partnership Kickoff/Exercise, Nags Head
- FAA has begun accommodating our staff needs for training and we have two Airport Project Managers attending FAA engineering and environmental training classes in April and May.
- May 15 - NC Airports Association Legislative Day at the Museum of Natural History.
- The Division has 7 staff members attending the Project Management training course through NCDOT Training and Development that runs through September 2018.

## MEETINGS ATTENDED (List any key meetings attended this month)

Presentations were made at the following meetings:

- February 6-7 – UAS Program Office met with AASHTO to complete an interview on how NCDOT is utilizing drones.
- February 16 – UAS Program Office met with the NC A&T University Autonomous and Robotics Lab.
- February 21 – Macon County Airport Authority. The Division of Aviation participated in a presentation and held project discussions.
- February 23 - Commercial Service Airport Funding Program meeting held at DoA.
- February 27 – UAS Program Office attended a state DOT UAS Peer Exchange hosted by the USDOT Volpe Center in Arlington, VA.
- February 28 – UAS Program Office hosted a NC UAS Research Hub meeting which gathered all the NC Universities focusing on UAS research and allowed each to speak about their research efforts.
- March 5-6 - UAS Program Office attended and spoke at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Public Safety UAS Conference in Charlottesville, VA.
- March 6-8 - UAS Program Office attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual FAA UAS Symposium in Baltimore, MD.
- March 13 - Moore County Airport Authority. The Division of Aviation gave a presentation to the Airport Authority on the Division and STI process. BOT Member Pat Molamphy and Senator Tom McInnis were in attendance.
- The NCAA Annual Conference was held in Asheville this year from March 26-28 at the Omni Grove Park Inn. This conference had the largest registered attendance in the association's history.